

*Miniatürk* is a miniature park situated at the north-eastern shore of Golden Horn in Istanbul, Turkey. It was opened May 2, 2003. Miniatürk covers a total area of 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> (650,000 sq ft). It is the world's largest miniature park with its 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> (160,000 sq ft) model area. Miniatürk has 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> (430,000 sq ft) of open space, 3,500 m<sup>2</sup> (38,000 sq ft) of covered area, 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> (22,000 sq ft) of pools and waterways, and a parking lot with a capacity of 500 vehicles.



The park contains 105 models done in 1/25th scale. 45 of the structures are from Istanbul, 45 are from Anatolia, and 15 are from the Ottoman territories that today lie outside of Turkey. Also featured are historic structures like the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus and the Mausoleum of Maussollos at Halicarnassus (now Bodrum). Additional space was reserved for potential future models.



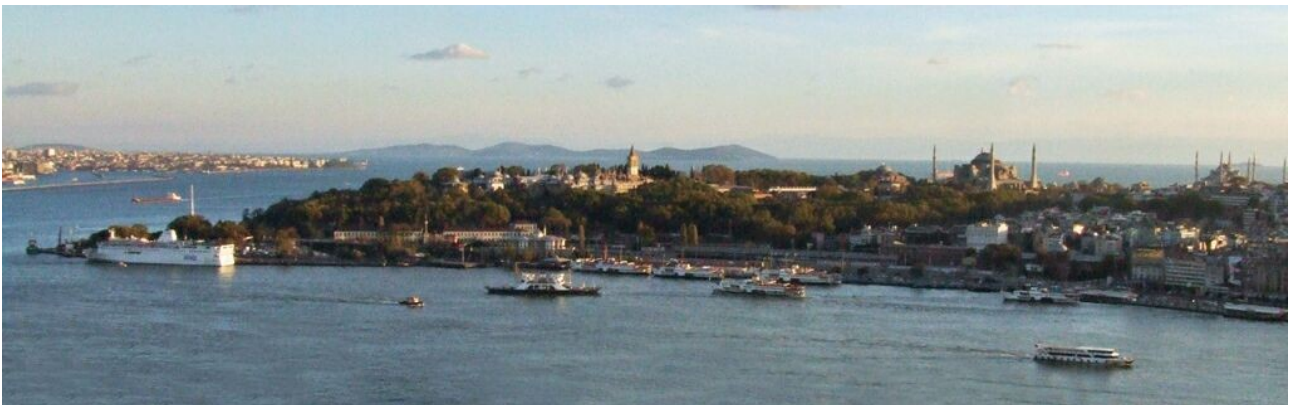




**Pierre Loti** (pseudonym of **Julien Viaud**), born 14 January 1850 in Rochefort, Charente-Maritime and died 10 June 1923 in Hendaye, was a French novelist and naval officer.

Loti's education began in Rochefort. At the age of seventeen he entered the naval school in Brest and studied on *Le Borda*. He gradually rose in his profession, attaining the rank of captain in 1906. In January 1910 he went on the reserve list.

His pseudonym is said to refer to his extreme shyness and reserve in early life, which made his comrades call him after "le Loti" (lotus), an Indian flower which allegedly loves to blush unseen. Other explanations have been put forth by scholars: for instance, that he acquired the name in Tahiti, where he got a sunburn and was called *Roti* (a red-colored local flower), but couldn't pronounce the "r" so he stuck with "Loti". He was in the habit of claiming that he never read books, saying to the Académie française on the day of his introduction (7 April 1892), "*Loti ne sait pas lire*" ("Loti doesn't know how to read"), but testimony from friends proves otherwise, as does his library, much of which is preserved in his house in Rochefort. In 1876 fellow naval officers persuaded him to turn into novel passages in his diary dealing with some curious experiences at Istanbul. The result was *Aziyadé* (1879), a novel which, like so many of Loti's, is part romance, part autobiography, like the work of his admirer, Marcel Proust, after him. There is a popular cafe in Eyüp in current-day Istanbul dedicated to the time Loti spent in Turkey.



The **Golden Horn** (Turkish: *Haliç* or *Altın Boynuz*) is a historic inlet of the Bosphorus dividing the city of Istanbul and forming the natural harbor that has sheltered Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and other ships for thousands of years. It is a scimitar-shaped estuary that joins the Bosphorus just at the point where that strait enters the Sea of Marmara, thus forming a peninsula the tip of which is "Old Istanbul" (ancient Byzantium and Constantinople). It's Greek and English names mean the same, but the significance of the designation "golden" is obscure. It has witnessed many tumultuous historical incidents and its dramatic vistas have been the subject of countless works of art.

*The Golden Horn forms a deep natural harbor for the peninsula it encloses together with the Sea of Marmara. The Byzantine Empire had its naval headquarters there, and walls were built along the shoreline to protect the city of Constantinople from naval attacks. At the entrance to the Horn, there was a large chain pulled across from Constantinople to the old Tower of Galata (which was known as the **Megàlos Pyrgos**, Great Tower, in Greek among the Byzantines) on the northern side, preventing unwanted ships from entering. This tower was largely destroyed by the Latin Crusaders during the Fourth Crusade (1204), but the Genoese built a new tower nearby, the famous Galata Tower (1348) which they called Christea Turris (Tower of Christ).*

*There were three notable times when the chain across the Horn was either broken or circumvented. In the 10th century the Kievan Rus' dragged their longships out of the Bosphorus, around Galata, and relaunched them in the Horn; the Byzantines defeated them with Greek fire. In 1204, during the Fourth Crusade, Venetian ships were able to break the chain with a ram. In 1453, Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II, having failed in his attempt to break the chain with brute force, instead used the same tactic as the Rus', towing his ships across Galata into the estuary over greased logs.*

*After the Capture of Constantinople in 1453 by Mehmed the Conqueror, Greeks (Greek Orthodox Church), Jews, Italian merchants, and other non-Muslims began to live along the Horn in the Phanar (Fener) and Balat districts. Today the Golden Horn is settled on both sides, and there are parks along each shore. The Istanbul Chamber of Commerce is also located along the shore, as are Muslim, Jewish and Christian cemeteries. The Galata Bridge connects the districts of Galata and Eminönü. Until the 1980s the Horn was polluted with industrial waste, but it has since been cleaned up. Today its history and beauty make it a popular tourist attraction in Istanbul.*

*Leonardo's bridge: In 1502 Leonardo da Vinci produced a drawing of a single span 720-foot (240 m) bridge over the Horn as part of a civil engineering project for Sultan Bayezid II. The vision was resurrected in 2001 when a small footbridge of Leonardo's design was constructed near Ås in Norway.*

*On May 17, 2006, it was announced that the prime minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the mayor of Istanbul Kadir Topbaş had decided to resurrect the Leonardo da Vinci Bridge project. The urban planning and feasibility studies of the project had started earlier, in 1999. After five centuries, Leonardo da Vinci's bridge will span the Golden Horn, becoming the first architectural project of the Renaissance genius to be realized in its original scale and its planned location.*

*The Turkish architect in charge of the construction is Bülent Güngör, known for the restoration of the Çırağan Palace, the Yıldız Palace, and the Sümelâ Monastery. The Bridge will be an exact realisation of da Vinci's design, with a single span of 720 feet (240 m), a width of 8 metres, and a height above the Golden Horn of 24 metres, as shown on his sketches.*



*The Golden Horn hosted the 4th round of the Red Bull Air Race World Series for the first time on July 29, 2006.*

*The Golden Horn features in many works of literature dealing with classical themes. For example, G. K. Chesterton's poem "Lepanto" contains the memorable couplet*

*"From evening isles fantastical rings faint the Spanish gun,  
And the Lord upon the Golden Horn is laughing in the sun".*



*A Jewish Hospital in Balat*

**Balat** is the traditional Jewish quarter in the Fatih district of Istanbul. It is located on the European side of Istanbul, in the old city on the historic peninsula, on the western bank of the Golden Horn. The name Balat is probably derived from Greek palation (palace), from Latin palatium, after the nearby Palace of Blachernae. Another Istanbul neighborhood deeply associated with Jewish settlement is Kuzguncuk on the Asian shore.